

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are amended, and claims 13-15 are added. Claims 1 and 7 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact that the Applicants' claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 30, 2001. An initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 has been returned by the Examiner. No further action is necessary at this time.

Specification Objection

The Examiner has objected to the specification because of several informalities. In order to overcome this objection, Applicants have amended the specification in order to address the issues pointed out by the Examiner. No new matter has been entered. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because Fig. 9 is not properly labeled and because the examiner alleges that element 50a is not shown in the drawings.

In response, one sheet of revised formal drawings is attached in which Fig. 9 is labeled "Background Art". Further, Examiner is directed to Fig. 5 which shows element 50a.

In addition, the drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for allegedly not showing every feature specified in the claims.

In response, three additional sheets of revised formal drawings are attached, with changes as follows:

Fig. 1. shows substrates 50;

Fig. 3 shows upper face 36b, lower face 36c, inclined surface 36d, stepped connecting wall 36e, relays 41, socket terminals 53, and connecting terminals 54; and

Fig. 4 shows socket terminals 53.

In view of the above changes and arguments, it is respectfully requested that the objections to the drawings be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that the original specification does not disclose several features as recited in claims 1, 2, 6-8, and 12.

In order to overcome this rejection, claims 1, 2, 6-8, and 12 are amended herein. Support for this amendment can be seen in paragraphs [0033] and [0034], which are in order to provide proper antecedent basis in the specification for the claimed subject matter. No new matter has been entered.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are fully supported by and adequately described in the written description of the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to overcome this rejection, claims 1, 4, and 11 are amended to address the issues specifically pointed out by the Examiner. Further, paragraph [0033] of the specification and Fig. 3 are amended merely to clarify the features in claim 7 which the examiner alleges are unclear.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments and arguments described above to address the issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, independent claim 7, and the claims depending therefrom, should be in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Unemoto (U.S. 6,178,106) in view of Shinochi (U.S. 5,285,011) and Okada (U.S. 5,967,819); and claims 1-3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kourimsky (U.S. 4,135,226). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a component parts box for a vehicle including a pair of mounting plates for mounting the component parts box onto the vehicle in an inclined position; and a plurality of substrates, said plurality of substrates being arranged in line in a stepped manner and being disposed between the pair of mounting plates.

Support for a pair of mounting plates for mounting the component parts box onto the vehicle in an inclined position is clearly illustrated in Fig. 1. As a result of this novel configuration, the box can be mounted at an angle in a limited space of the vehicle.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Unemoto, Shinochi, Okada, and Kourimsky.

After a careful review of the references cited by the examiner, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the documents fails to teach or suggest a pair of mounting plates for mounting the component parts box onto the vehicle in an inclined position.

Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Unemoto, Shinochi, Okada, and Kourimsky, for the reasons explained above.

Therefore, claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

Added claims 13-15

The Examiner will note that claims 13-15 are added to set forth additional novel features not disclosed in the cited references.

All claims of this application are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

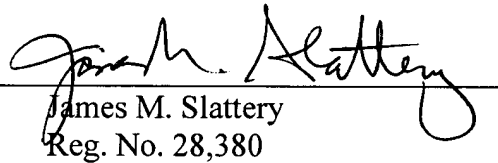
Application No. 09/820,918
Amendment dated October 10, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 10, 2003


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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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By


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0505-0790P
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Attachments: Four Sheets of Drawings Corrections